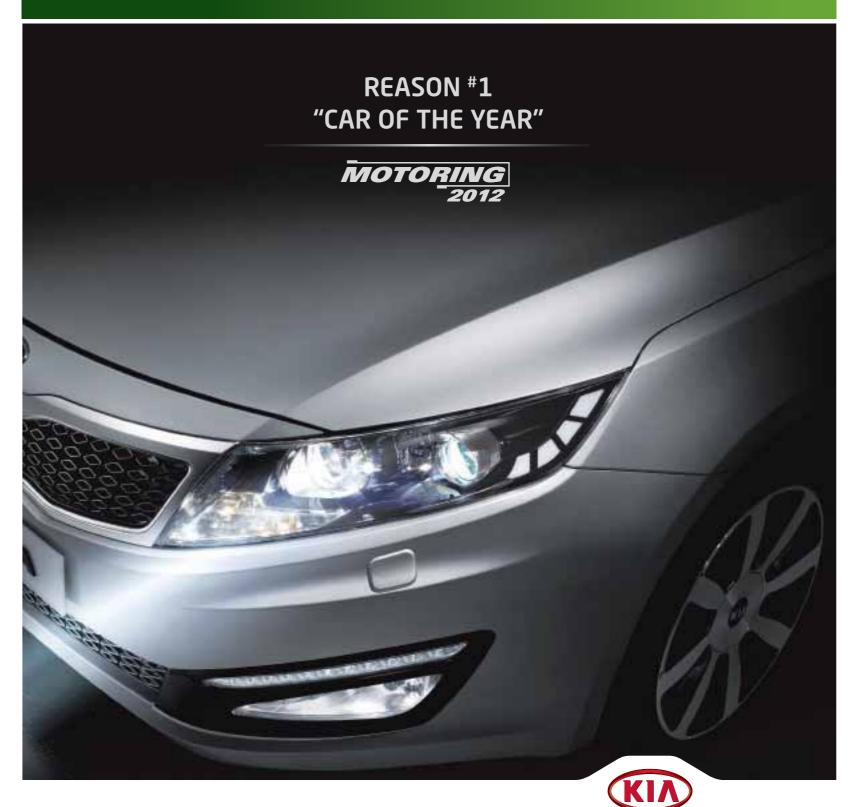


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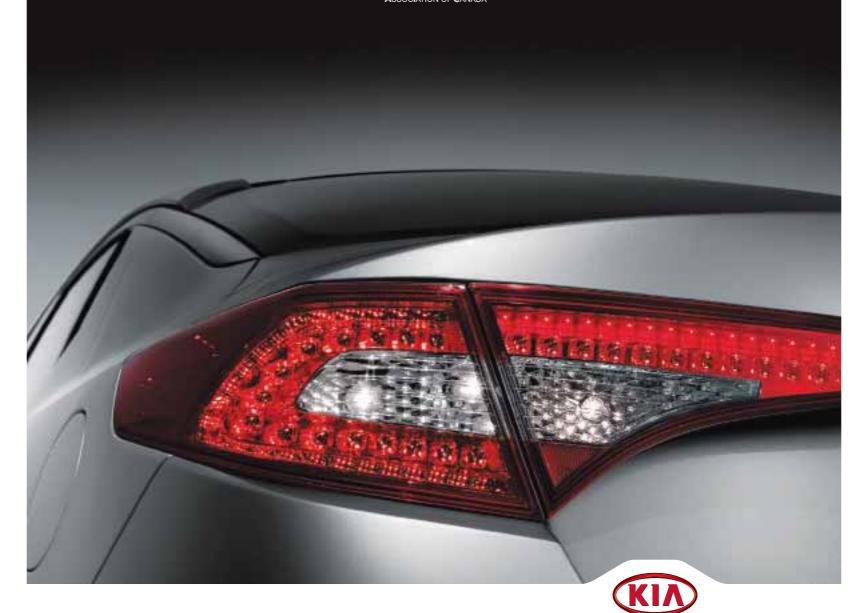




(under \$30,000 & over \$30,000)



AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA





ACADEMY REWARDS RED-CARPET EATS FOR YOUR OSCAR PARTY

{page 21}

OLD ROCKERS NEVER DIE THEY JUST GO ON

THEY JUST GO ON REUNION TOURS (page 17)



BLOCKED CAPITALS

TEAM MIRED IN MAJOR SLUMP

{page 22}



Weekend, February 24-26, 2012 www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.



NDP to Tories: Come clean on dirty tricks

◆ Tories pleaded guilty last year to topping campaign spending limit in 2006 ◆ Accused now of using 'robocalls' to mislead voters

Prime Minister Stephen Harper insists the Conservative party had nothing to do with a dirty-tricks campaign aimed at discouraging opposition supporters from voting in last spring's election.

But New Democrats and Liberals say the latest revelations are more proof that the Tories have subverted the democratic process in order to win elections.

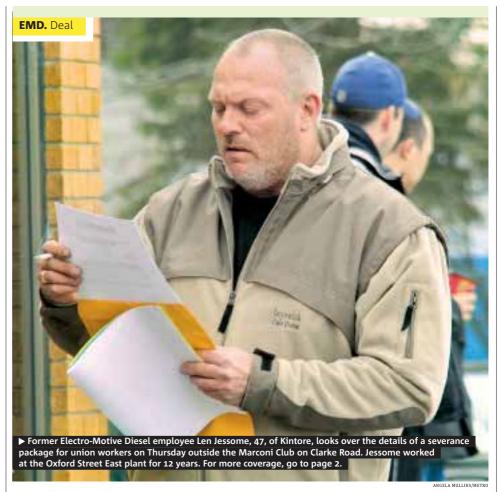
The opposition charges came Thursday after a company that did campaign work for Conservatives, including Harper, was linked to harassing or misleading automated phone calls received by voters in some 18 hotly-contested ridings before the May 2 election. Edmonton-based RackNine Inc. confirmed Thursday that Elections Canada and the police are investigating.

The opposition has compared the matter to the Watergate scandal that toppled U.S. president Richard Nixon. New Democrat MP Pat Martin predicted the magni"Just a few months ago they pled guilty to breaking election spending laws. Now they've upped the ante with what looks like the most widespread and systematic voter suppression campaign in Canadian history."

INTERIM NDP LEADER NYCOLE TURMEL

tude of the scam "will be enough to make Richard Nixon blush."

But Harper said the phoney calls were not a Tory tactic. "I have absolutely no knowledge on anything about these calls but, obviously, if there's anyone who has done anything wrong, we expect that they will face the full consequences of the law," he told reporters during a visit to Iqaluit. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Union ratifies Electro-Motive severance





No pay raise for doctors, McGuinty says

Premier Dalton McGuinty is sending a strong message to Ontario's doctors that they aren't getting a pay increase as his government struggles to eliminate the deficit.

The Liberals made it clear during last fall's election campaign that they'll "hold the line" on pay hikes for physicians, he said Thursday as labour negotiations with doctors got underway.

"Now we've got to make some choices as to where



we put the next few precious dollars in health care." he said.

"And if I give them to

No comment

Officials from the London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Hospital declined comment, referring questions to the Ontario Hospital and Ontario Medical associations.

physicians, that does not improve the quality of care."

Ontario doctors are "relatively well paid" compared to their counterparts across

the country, he said, and the money could be used to pay for other things, such as vaccinations or home care.

The Ontario Medical Association (OMA), which represents the province's doctors, called the comments "disappointing."

The government can't take credit for successes in the health-care system — such as reducing wait times — and then turn around and suggest that doctors who provided the services

aren't bringing any value to patients, it said.

"The government can't have it both ways," OMA president Stewart Kennedy said in a statement.

"Ontario's doctors are seeing more patients and providing more services and procedures than ever before in order to meet the needs of patients and it is unfortunate that the government has decided to malign this hard work through the media"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Researchers have tagged a killer whale belonging to a group classified as endangered in the U.S. Scan the code for the story.

- Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com
- 2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes
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On the web at metronews.ca



A father has been sentenced for letting his nine-year-old drive when he was drunk. Security cameras recorded a portion of the drive. Watch at metronews.ca/video



Wait over at Electro-Motive plant

Severance deal approved with 95 per cent of union members in support ○ Requires picket line outside the plant to be removed



Electro-Motive Diesel workers said they're grateful for the terms of a severance agreement approved Thursday.

Still, some said, it doesn't make moving on any easier or less unnerving.

"I thought I was going to retire here. My wife has leukemia. When all this (severance) runs out, who pays the bills? Who pays the meds?" John Doucet, 48, of London said, tears welling in his eyes. "Right now, she don't need them — thank God. But who pays them? Stephen Harper won't do it. He don't care."

Under the agreement, the plant's about 450 "(This) is not an acceptance of what Caterpillar did. Our union members are leaving ... with their heads up high ... but facing the uncertainties of not having a job."

PRESIDENT KEN LEWENZA

union workers will receive three weeks' pay for each year at the plant plus an additional \$1,500. Partial health benefits will continue through Aug. 31. The Canadian Auto Workers will be paid \$350,000 to settle all grievances and set up an adjustment program to



help workers.

For Doucet, the severance works out to about \$25,000 before taxes. He credited the Canadian Auto Workers with "going after" Caterpillar — Electro-Motive's parent company — to reach a deal better than the minimum allowed under labour

In Ontario, the minimum equates to one week's pay for each year worked and would have seen Doucet receive about \$7,000 before taxes.

The deal gives the plant's owners until Sept. 30 to finish outstanding production work and dismantle the facility, which closed Feb. 3.

Robberies might be linked: Cops

London police are investigating three pharmacy robberies Wednesday that appear to be connected.

Police were called to the Guardian Pharmacy at 2530 Main St. in Lambeth at 2:12 p.m. A suspect pulled a gun and left the store with an undisclosed amount of drugs.

At 6:27 p.m., a robbery occurred at Ernest Phar-



macy at 1408 Ernest Ave. Again, a suspect had a gun, this time demanding cash. At 7:36 p.m., a similar scene played out at Jalna Pharmacy at 1286 Jalna Blvd.

There were no injuries in these robberies.

Police said there are two suspects: A white man about five-foot-five and 150 pounds, and another white male, five-foot-four and 185 pounds, believed to be in his mid-20s.

METRO

News in brief

Snowy weather on its way

London and much of Southern Ontario is in the path of a weather system that's expected to bring 10 to 15 centimetres of snow to the region. So far this winter we've only received 122 centimetres of snow. Normally by this time we've already received 232 centimetres. AM980/AM980.CA

Attention all artists

The call to artists for the third London Timeraiser is open. The Timeraiser is a silent art auction where instead of bidding money, participants bid volunteer time. To apply, create an account at timeraiser. slideroom.com.



The Samsung Galaxy Note redefines the phone. No, the tablet. No, both.

Introducing the revolutionary new hybrid that combines the portability of a smartphone with the graphic impact of a tablet. With its 5.3" HD Super AMOLED™ screen, the Samsung Galaxy Note boasts the largest display available with one-hand portability, letting you see more and do more in glorious HD all while on the go.

The Samsung Galaxy Note also offers a whole new level of interaction with the launch of the S Pen,™ the most advanced pen input technology in the world. With the S Pen you can write and draw directly on the screen, capturing your ideas just like you would with a real pen.

And with its 1.5 GHz dual-core processor, coupled with the Rogers LTE network, you get lightning-fast multi-tasking and downloading speeds. Once you've experienced the Samsung Galaxy Note, you won't be able to look at a smartphone, or a tablet, the same way again.

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Rogers LTE network available in Ottawa, Vancouver, Montreal and the Greater Toronto area.

MONTH



Patching up the Market

The scaffolding was inching its way toward the tower's ceiling Thursday afternoon. Once there, workers will repair damage done by a leaky roof.

Online-learning proposal gets mixed reviews

Some student groups say initiative tabled to government would 'hinder,' not 'help,' students Lack of student, faculty input a concern, some say



Veronica Barahona doesn't like the idea of forcing Fanshawe College students to take online classes.

That type of learning, she said, isn't for everyone and could cause a lot of problems for some, especially older students who didn't grow up in the digital age.

"Online learning works great for some people ... but others are more visual learners and feed on being with others (in a classroom environment)," said Barahona, president of Fanshawe's student union. "You're setting ... people (up) to fail. That's not really fair if you want students to grow and learn from their environment."

Needless to say, Barahona isn't necessarily cheering about a policy report urging government leaders to move more college and university courses online.

The report, prepared for the ministry that oversees post-secondary education, calls for students to take up to three courses out of five online each semester. The courses would be offered through each institution and the province's long-promised Ontario Online Institute.

While a national students' group has spoken out against the idea, not everyone's convinced it's all bad.

Patrick Searle — speaking on behalf of Western's University Students' Council and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance — thinks the proposal is aimed at expanding "online learning options, not necessarily moving courses online.

3x3

Dubbed 3x3, the proposal also recommends:

- Emphasizing three-year undergraduate degrees.
- Bulking up the summer semester to promote year-round schooling.

"Students certainly support an expansion of online learning, though not necessarily at the expense of current physical classes, for which demand is expected to rise in the next five years," he said in an email.

Ex-Ornge CEO a creditor in bankruptcy



The ousted CEO of Ontario's troubled air ambulance service is listed as a creditor in the bankruptcy of one of Ornge's forprofit ventures.

Bankruptcy documents list Chris Mazza, who was paid \$1.4 million a year as CEO, as being owed \$1. That means that the balance due, if any, is undetermined or unknown.

Mazza was terminated as CEO of Ornge, which is currently under a criminal probe for "financial irregularities."

The lawyer listed as representing Mazza in the

\$6.5M This is amount that documents list as Ornge's debts.

bankruptcy case was not immediately available for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Knights stay loose and motivated

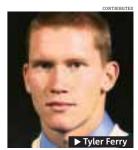
The London Knights find themselves in an enviable position as the 2011-12 regular season winds down. The team (42-13-0-1) has already clinched a playoff spot and, barring a collapse, will most likely be the top team in the Western Conference.

"At this point in the season, less is more," said assistant coach Misha Donskov.

"We've shortened up practices considerably (under an hour) — keeping the morale upbeat, and making sure our messages to the guys are short and concise."

The coaches are constantly fine-tuning the team's systems, preferring a nip-and-tuck approach rather than full-blown invasive surgery.

"It's no secret that if you want to go deep into the OHL playoffs, you've got to have good special teams," Donskov said. "That's one of the areas we've really keyed on. And making sure the guys play a full 60 minutes and they're accountable in all three zones."



That being said, the players are teenagers, and all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

The last practice before a game, all players and coaches participate in a team shootout to keep things light. And players often stay on the ice after practice for some impromptu games.

"We'll break into groups and play two-on-two, or have some fun with the goalies," said defenceman Tyler Ferry, 19. "It keeps everyone loose; if we're all too serious or too business-like, you forget to have fun.

"If you don't have fun, you're not going to play well." • MIKE ARSENAULT

ELECTRICITY: DRUMMOND REPORT

No early end to rebates: McGuinty

Ontario's cash-strapped government will not follow a recommendation to save \$1.1 billion a year by eliminating the 10 per cent rebates on electricity bills earlier than planned, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Thursday.

The Liberals introduced the so-called Clean Energy Benefit Jan. 1, 2011, to offset the impact of the costs of rebuilding the aging power grid and of their green-energy policies, both of which were sending hydro bills soaring.

Economist Don Drummond's report on reforming government services to eliminate the \$16-billion deficit within five years recommended scrapping the electricity rebates "as quickly as possible."

McGuinty had his own take on Drummond's recommendation.

"I read that particular section with interest and I think the advice as I interpret it is: 'Don't end it any later than you'd originally planned. If you can end it sooner, fine," McGuinty told reporters.

"We don't intend to end it any sooner."

The Progressive Conservatives said if McGuinty wants to reject Drummond's ideas for saving money, he should come up with some other way to pay for them, but wouldn't say if they supported continuing the energy rebates. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMPETITION? WHAT COMPETITION?



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VEHICLES BY FEATURE	2012 2012 CAMRY FUSION HYBRID HYBRID		2012 SONATA HYBRID	2011 OPTIMA HYBRID
MSRP	\$26,990 [†]	\$34,499 ¹	\$28,999 ¹	\$30,595 ¹
CITY FUEL EFFICIENCY (L/100 KM)	4.5	4.6	5.5	5.6
COMBINED FUEL EFFICIENCY (L/100 KM)	4.7	5.0	5.1	5.3
ENGINE SIZE (LITRES)	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4
HORSEPOWER	200	191	206	206
CARGO CAPACITY (LITRES)	371	334	304	280
AIRBAGS	10	7	6	6



⁻ David Booth, The National Post

Feds dole out \$27M for adult education in North

PM to boost employment skills for high school dropouts in Arctic Critics say more money needed

Prime Minister Stephen Harper flew to a frigid Iqaluit to deliver \$27 million for adult education in the North, an attempt to help high-school dropouts qualify for jobs.

The money will be spread over five years, and shared by three colleges, one in each of the territo-

"By improving access to adult basic education, we are giving Northerners the tools they need to seek higher education and secure employment in secthat contribute to Canada's growth," Harper said in a statement

Part of the funding was announced in last June's budget, which put \$9 million over two years to adult basic education. Thursday's announcement extends the funding time frame and increases the annual allotment slightly.

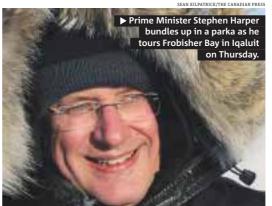
Harper has frequently stressed that education levels among aboriginal peoples need to improve if they are ever to find prosperity. But he is under intense pressure from native

economic leaders to ante up serious

That pressure may have persuaded Harper to spend a day at a short news conference and a photo op on the ice at -26 C.

Back in the south, the Liberal aboriginal affairs critic called Harper's announcement paltry compared to the needs of the North.

"The prime minister's drive-by announcement today provided nowhere near the kind of resources for education, social housing, mental health, drug treat-



ment and food security desperately needed in the north in order to improve the health, education and

well-being of northern Canadians," MP Carolyn Bennett said in a release. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

- Inuit Tapiriit Kapanami, a non-profit group, has estimated that only a quarter of Inuit students finish high
- The 2006 census suggests the level is about half that. Regardless, the graduation rate is drastically lower than that of the rest of the population.
- **Nunavut Arctic College** is receiving \$11 million of the funding. Yukon College is getting \$300,000 so far and can apply for more over the coming five years. And Aurora College is getting \$620,000 with the potential for more.

Alberta parents of mauled newborn baby speak out

An Alberta couple whose pet husky killed their twoday-old baby says all the dogs in the home went through training and obedience classes.

Rob and Rhonda Fradette said in a news release Thursday that they also attended seminars by the Cal-Humane Society, before bringing the baby home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judges, ex-Tory MP among those decrying crime bill

tims' advocate, two retired judges and an ex-Conserva-

group including a vic- tive MP say Canadians will be more fearful and less safe five years from now under criminal changes being made by the Harper government.

The bill is in the final stages of being approved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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AFGHAN RIOTS

Obama apologizes for Qur'an burning

President Barack Obama apologized Thursday for the burning of copies of the Muslim holy book at a U.S. military base this week, as violent protests raging nationwide led a man dressed in an Afghan army uniform to kill two U.S. troops.

The Afghans' furious response to the Qur'an burning — three days of riots in several cities — reflected the anger at what they perceive as foreign forces' disrespect for Afghan laws and culture.

In a letter sent to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Obama expressed his "regret and apologies over the incident in which religious materials were unintentionally mishandled," a White House spokesman said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7 marines killed in night training exercise

Crash follows several recent accidents involving marines in California
 Three killed in separate helicopter crashes at Camp Pendleton

Seven U.S. marines were killed when two helicopters collided in the California desert during night training exercises, the latest of several Marine Corps training accidents in the region.

"We're still gathering a lot of details as the sun comes up," said Lt. Maureen Dooley with the Miramar Air Base in California.

The crash happened around 8 p.m. Wednesday and involved an AH-1W Cobra that carried two crew members and a UH-1 Huey utility helicopter carrying five service members from the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

It will be at least 24 hours before the marine

► This undated image provided by the U.S. Marine Corps shows a UH-1 Huey helicopter. One of the two helicopters involved in the crash was similar to this one.

corps releases the names of those killed.

The aircraft collided in a remote portion of the Yuma Training Range Complex.

The U.S. military and its

allies train in the hot, desert area ringed by mountains because the conditions are similar to Iraq.

The AH-1W is considered the marine corps' main at-

tack helicopter. The UH-1Y is replacing the aging version of the Huey utility helicopter first used during the Vietnam War.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Koodo

Good call



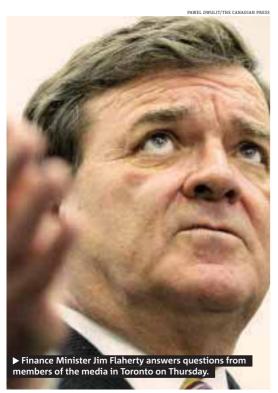


Walmart > !<



Bowmanville Mall Bramalea City Centre Burlington Mall Cambridge Centre Centerpoint Mall Conestoga Mall Devonshire Mall Dixie Outlet Mall Downtown Chatham Centre Dufferin Mall Eastgate Square Erin Mills Town Centre Fairview Mall Georgian Mall Heritage Place Hillcrest Mall Lambton Mall Lansdowne Place Lime Ridge Mall Lynden Park Mall Mapleview Shopping Centre Markville Shopping Centre Masonville Place New Sudbury Centre Northgate Shopping Centre Oakville Place Pen Centre Pickering Town Centre Scarborough Town Centre Seaway Mall Sheppard Centre Sherway Gardens Square One Station Mall Stone Road Mall Tecumseh Mall The Promenade Toronto Eaton Centre Union Station Upper Canada Mall Vaughan Mills White Oaks Mall Woodbine Centre Yorkdale Mall

'Draconian' cuts not for us: Flaherty



○ Budget won't follow Europe's lead • Yet agencies told to tighten belts

Ottawa will take a moderate approach to government cost-cutting in the budget instead of following in Europe's austerity-driven footsteps, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Thursday.

"We are not one of the countries, many of them in Europe, that have run up deficits for a long period of time, accumulated substantial debt and must really act dramatically - some of them in a draconian way," Flaherty said.

Flaherty's comments seemingly run counter to

signals that he's preparing painful, cost-slashing budget next month. Government departments and agencies have been ordered to cut spending by up to 10

Few details of the cuts have been made public. Opposition parties are calling on the Conservatives to come clean about their plans to curb costs.

"You never quite know what their political game is," said Liberal treasury board critic John McCallum. The canadian press

OIL PIPELINE

Keystone is inevitable: Governor

Montana's governor says the Keystone XL pipeline from Alberta's oilsands to the Gulf Coast will eventually be built, and he blames the delay on

"jackasses" in Washington who have only recently discovered the issue.

"Ninety per cent of these

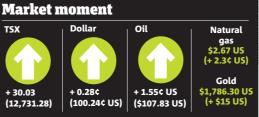
jackasses that are complaining about the Keystone pipeline in Washington, D.C., one year ago wouldn't have even known where the Keystone was," said Gov. Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat.

A decision on the pipeline, which would extend an existing oil line that delivers crude to

> Midwest, was delayed until early 2013 to work out a new route.

THE CANADIAN PRESS











Free support to help you become a successful quitter is available through the Canadian Cancer Society Smokers' Helplineat 1 877 513-5333 and SmokersHelpline.ca.











"No purchase recessory. Registration describe: Feb 29/12. Registration, full rules, complete eligibility requirements and grize descriptions at: www.driventoquit.ca. Skill-testing question required. Prizes may not be exactly as shown.



WILL HIS FIRST WORD BE SHOTGUN?

METRO LIST

MIKE BENHAIM

Priorities: Even in recession, our society manages to fund organizations like the Kinsey Institute's Condom Use Research Team (CURT). The



Journal of Sexual Health recently published research that states, "Condom misuse is an epidemic." Kinsey's Richard Crosby went so far as to say, "We underestimate how complicated condom use can be." Really? Have we tried funding an organization that prevents dummies from

having sex?

Roll up the RIM: This week RIM announced the launch of its BlackBerry PlayBook OS 2.0. It includes many things that should have been on the original, but they are still slightly behind their competitors, primarily pertaining to apps. My thought? How about an app that teaches people how to use a condom?

Sorry Charlie: Charlie Sheen wrote a letter to Ashton Kutcher, apologizing for recent "disrespectful" comments. Sheen's management stated, "Why is anyone still listening to Charlie?

Auto child: Toronto couple Robbie and Esther Stern gave birth to a baby boy in the front seat of their Dodge Avenger. What happens now? Do they get free Dodges for life? Is the kid automatically born with a driver's licence? Free gas? Either way, it'll make a great ad: "Dodge Avenger: From one generation to the next!"

Wise-guy witness: After years of suspicion that organized-crime groups were controlling publicworks contracts in Quebec, an inquiry has finally been launched. Now Quebec is asking the public to help gather evidence via anonymous email or toll-free phone calls. In unrelated news, the Canadian government has cut funding to the witness-protection program.

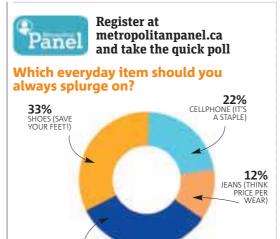
Dating for dummies: Canada is on the realityshow bandwagon: Canada's Got Talent airs next week, and auditions for The Bachelor Canada are underway. Next, I suggest a combo show wherein the bachelor actually chooses his companion based on her talent. Women can juggle, dance or sing (my money's on the contortionist). Hey, maybe they can finally find a partner for Susan Boyle.

Poetic justice: A fugitive, who had been convicted of 12 counts of sexual misconduct with a minor and who had appeared on America's Most Wanted, was arrested in Montreal upon returning from Venezuela. He lived in Vancouver for 10 years under an assumed Canadian identity. With a 169-year sentence looming, he probably felt he should take time off to travel. Let's hope he's imprisoned alongside other most-wanted criminals. That's something I'd pay to see.

Academy Awards: A word of advice for the Oscars. If you win the award for best short film, please ensure your speech is shorter than the actual project.

Here's lookin' at you, Kid: Native Montrealers lost an icon last week when Gary (The Kid) Carter passed away at age 57. In 2003 he became the first player to enter the Baseball Hall of Fame as an Expo. The bond between Carter and Montreal was so strong that, even after playing for three other teams, he returned for one final season in 1992. He will be dearly remembered, and forever missed. RIP.

More from Mike Benhaim at metronews.ca/backbeat



NOTHING YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND A DEAL

Local tweets



@patsearle: Wow, it's so

beautiful outside in *#LdnOnt right now. Feels like April.

- @BexFry: someone know a Kin prof that can speak with me about knee replacements? #help #ldnont
- **@edjackman:** Debating going out for retro night at Downtown Kathy Brown's for my 40th this Saturday. Anyone interested in coming along? #LDNont
- **@kylemilec:** If this Oxford East gets to #Fanshawe and

I'm sleeping, wake me up! #allNighter #ldnont

- @kadiejeanward: feels like Wednesday, but it's Thursday. brilliant! #shortweek
- @itsjenner: There are under 20 tickets left for the International Women's Day Breakfast! Check out @endwomanabuse for details! #ldnont
- @speezyD: It's beautiful outside! Spring? Can you hear me? #ldnont
- @ashleyyyfrances: Is it sad that I'm excited to be in the #fanshawe library all day studying canadian polisci? #dedicatedstudent #youknowyoureanerdwhen



For the man who has everything

MIAMI BEACH. Fancy joining the jet set? Well, it wouldn't hurt if you got yourself this water-powered jet pack, demonstrated here at the Yacht & Brokerage Show in Florida this month.

The JetLev R200 toy for big boys propels fliers nine metres in the air by sucking up water from the sea and blasting it back out. mwn

"When I was 14, I watched James Bond fly a jet pack in Thunderball, and had then dreamt of flying one ... so I decided to invent a machine (for) mainstream personal flight." RAYMOND LI

CANADIAN INVENTOR OF JETLEV



1,000 gallons water is pumped through the jet pack every minute — that's a staggering 16,000 cups of water.

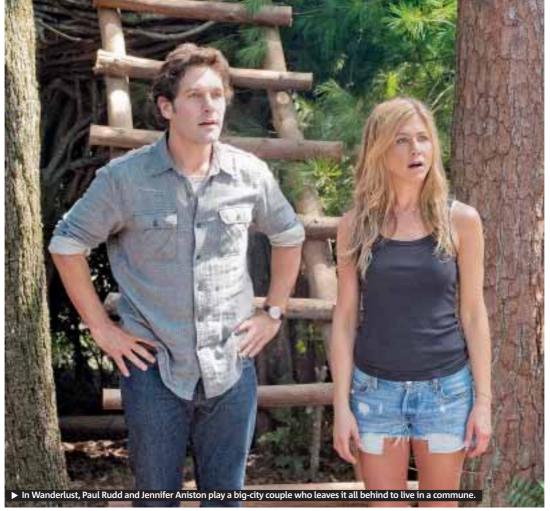


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Synopsis

Punifer Aniston and Paul Rudd play a big-city couple forced to downsize when he loses his job and her documentary is rejected by HBO. Forced to sell their apartment and faced with the prospect of working with his idiot brother, the pair go adopt a hippie lifestyle and move into a free love commune.

Ratings: Richard: @@@@ Mark: @@@@



Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN

Hippie hilarity

Wanderlust is the funniest movie since Bridesmaids, says Richard Crouse
 The cast and script bring a freshness to the hippie satire

Richard: Mark, Wanderlust is something we haven't seen for a while — a Jennifer Aniston movie that doesn't stink. In fact, it's really good. Great supporting cast, loads of laughs and a great hallucination scene. The only thing that stinks is the hippie hygiene. What did you think?

MB: Ah, but most Paul Rudd movies are pretty good. He has a great track record of choosing good scripts, and Aniston had the good sense to attach herself to it. This is really one of the funniest movies I've seen in a long time. I started laughing

at the opening scene in the realtor's office and didn't stop for 90 minutes. It's smart, well-cast, timely, and I can't find any flaws. If you liked writer/director David Wain's offbeat, loopy work in The State or Wet Hot American Summer, you're going to love this picture.

RC: Agreed. I haven't laughed like that in a movie since Bridesmaids last year. Rudd dies a mirror pep talk scene that is raunchy, funny and kind of surreal. Speaking of surreal, the hallucination sequence is trippy and hilarious. I've seen loads of drug scenes in movies but this one made me feel high ... with laughter.

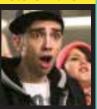
MB: The film feels like Martha Marcy May Marlene reimagined as a comedy with, yes, a Bridesmaids spirit. It's been a long while since we've seen a hippie commune satire, and it's long overdue. So much to like here — Alan Alda's acid-head paterfamilias, Malin Ackermann's love goddess, the nudist writer/winemaker, boorish brother, his neglected trophy wife, and Justin Theroux as the cult leader lost in the '90s.

RC: I think the reason the movie works so well, aside from the very funny script, is that each of the characters you mentioned could have been the focus of the story and it still would have been a good movie. There isn't a character in the movie that feels extraneous. Also, I loved the uber hippie jokes. Where else would you find a placenta as soup stock joke?

MB: Saturday Night Live had a 'placenta helper' mock commercial some time ago that was heavily censored. But you're right - the movie gets the details right. It's an ayahuasca ceremony that they take part in, peyote being so ... 2003. And maybe that's the thrill of finally seeing Ms. Aniston in a comedy that's not only funny but original as well. She's been performing for focus groups far too long. Wanderlust may be a Hollywood movie, but it has an indie sensibility.



Scene in brief



Alliance Films says the City of Toronto has removed 38 Goon posters ahead of the hockey movie's release Friday. A spokeswoman for Alliance says the outdoor ads feature Goon star Jay Baruchel "gesturing in a way that the city believes is inappropriate." The poster in auestion reportedly featured Baruchel making a sexually suggestive sign with his tongue and fingers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Actress Pam Grier praises War Horse, Streep, Close and Davis ahead of Oscars

It's party time Project X director talks about his own days of

partying Filming a bender isn't as fun as it seems



When I sit down to talk to tray full of liquor bottles director Nima Nourizadeh at the W Hotel in Hollywood, there's a

and martini-making tools on the table between us. It's not even 10 in the

morning. "Do you want a drink?" he offers, before joking, "This is the second tray they've brought me, by the way. I've already had one." That sense of humour makes him a perfect fit for Project X, his directorial debut, about a teenage house party that gets beyond out of control.

This movie looked like a lot of fun to make for the actors



but a nightmare for the director.

I mean, honestly, it was one of the most challenging things that I've ever done. We had a short amount of time to shoot quite an insane movie. But it was like this controlled chaos, you know? It was a lot of fun, but you hit an age where you're just like, after one night of partying you just want to chill and watch TV. And for me it was like I had to keep the energy up for four and a half weeks of night shoots.

That'll certainly take a toll on you.

Oh, it did, it did. I had to stay in that schedule at the weekends as well. It was really quite an isolating experience for me. I came out here [from London] to shoot the movie, and for the time being I'm still here. I actually came out here to have a meeting, and I thought I'd be out here for a couple of weeks, and I never went back. Can you believe that? I didn't even have a send-off!

So how does the movie match up to your own party experiences?

I don't even know if I can even talk about it. (laughs) My party experiences tend to be I have an amazing time, and then I wake up. I literally wake up and I'm still at the party and no one else is there. That's happened to me loads of times, actually. And then you hear about what happened in that time period. Actually, that sounds a bit like the Hangover. (laughs) It's like people texting you and you're like, "Oh s--, that didn't happen, did it?"

Was there any concern about pulling back on content to get the R rating?

Me less than maybe the producers knew what we could and couldn't get away with. And on top of that we've got this realistic approach to the movie, so we have to touch on some things that maybe normally you wouldn't, like the drug use, some of the sex. I just wanted to do as much as possible, and I felt like kids today have seen so many things. It wasn't like when I was growing up you had to get a VHS and that was the only way you would see some of this stuff. We didn't have the Internet. If you wanted to see some boobs you had to maybe watch a movie that was rated R. I just think this kind of material is so much more accessible to kids right now that it probably won't seem as outrageous to them as it does to someone my age.

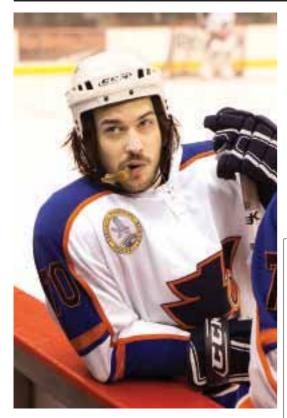
Yet there's no cigarette smoking in the movie, from what I could see.

You might actually see one. (laughs) No no no. I'm not sure if it was a conscious thing or not, but we just never really wanted to show it. Like, there's nothing really glamorous about it — I'm not saying that everything else is glam-orous, but there was no value in having any cigarettes. I don't think anyone was missing out on seeing a cigarette being smoked in the film. There was too many other things to keep your eye on.'



Movie reviews

See it twice ����� | See it now ���� | Worth watching ��� | Yawn �� | Don't bother �



Goon
Genre: Comedy
Director: Mike Dowse
Stars: Seann William Scott, Jay
Baruchel, Allison Pill

Mike Dowse's mighty hockey comedy splits the difference between Slapshot (gory rink violence) and the director's previous Fubar films (wellmeaning boneheads trying their best not so screw up). Seann William's performance as a bouncer-turned-enforcer is a beautiful balance of guilelessness and thuggery, and the script gives him and the other actors plenty of space to breathe while still squarely hitting the necessary sports-flick beats.

ADAM NAYMAN



Act of Valor Genre: Action Directors: Mike McCoy, Scott Waugh Stars: Alex Veadov, Roselyn Sanchez

There's something simultaneously startling and uncomfortable about watching real-life Navy SEALS starring in a fictional action film based on their professional exploits: at times, Act of Val-

or feels like the live-action equivalent of a kid slamming his GI Joes together. The film is relatively well-made around its strange gimmick, and if it's unusually jingoistic by the standards of most post Iraq-war blockbusters, that's the whole idea: faulting the filmmakers for heroizing their subjects is sort of missing the point.

ADAM NAYMAN





Genre: Comedy/Romance **Director:** Tyler Perry **Stars:** Tyler Perry, Gabrielle Union, Thandie Newton

Good Deeds will make you laugh, but you'll be laughing at it rather than with it. It may also make you cry, but they will be tears of frustration at a story so predictable it makes the See Spot Run books seem complex by comparison. Director Tyler Perry is not doing audiences a good deed by releasing his latest film, Good Deeds, in general release. The melodramatic story of a rich man (Tyler Perry) who learns about love and life from a woman (Thandie Newton) who works for him isn't just a bad movie, it's what I call a 'seatbelt movie;' a film so bad you'll need a seatbelt to keep you from walking out halfway through.

RICHARD CROUSE







Scout Week - Join Us!





THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB. 23 TO THURS., FEB. 29. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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Mustang Drive-In -London 2551 Wilton Grove Rd., 519-644-1160

Listings not available at press time

Hyland Cinema 240 Wharncliffe Road South, 519-913-0313

Rainbow Cinemas London 355 Wellington St., 519-434-3073

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-7:20-9:35

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D

(PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:30-6:55-9 **Safe House** (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:25-7:05-9:40 **The Secret World of Arrietty** (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:35-7-9:15

This Means War (14A) Fri-Wed 1:05-3:30 7:25-9:45 Thu 3:30-7:25-9:45 Thu 1 **The Vow** (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:40-7:15-9:35 Wanderlust (STC) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:50-7:10-9:30

Western Film

Room 340, UCC Building Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Sat-Sun 2:15-4:30

One for the Money (PG) Fri-Thu 9:35 Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Thu 7

Wellington 8 Cinemas 983 Wellington Rd. S, 519-

685-2529

Act of Valor (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:40-

3:30-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45 Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (14A)

Sat-Sun 12:30

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D (14A) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:20-6:30-9:10 Mon-

Thu 6:30-0:10

Gone (14A) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 7:20-10 Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG)

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) Fri 6:20-9 Sat-Sun 3:40-6:20-9 Mon-Wed 6:20-9 Thu 6:20 Project X (18A) Thu 10

Safe House (14A) Fri 7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:55 This Means War (14A) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20

The Vow (PG) Fri 6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-

6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:35 **Wanderlust** (STC) Fri 7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50

Cineplex Odeon Westmount & VIP **Cinemas** 755 Wonderland Road

South, 519-474-2796

Ernani (STC) Sat 12:55 Sat 12:55 Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D (14A) Fri 4:40-7:50-10:25 Sat 1:40-4:40-7:50-10:25 Sun 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:05 Tue 4:40-7:30-10:05 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:05

Goon (18A) Fri 4:10-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:40 Mon 79:40 Tue 4:10-79:40 Salesum 1:10-4:10-79:40 Fri 4:45-7:45-10:25 Sal 2-4:45-7:45-10:25 Sal 2-4:45-7:45-10:25 Sun 2-4:45-7:30-10:10 Mon 7:30-10:10 Tue 4:45-7:30-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:10 Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG)

Sat 12:30 Sun 12:50

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) Fri 5:15-7:40-10:20 Sat 2:50-5:15-7:40-10:20 Sun 3:50-6:40-9:10 Mon 6:40-9:10 Tue 3:50-6:40-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:10

Leonardo Live (STC) Sun 12:55 The Metropolitan Opera: Faust - Live (STC) Mon 6:30

Safe House (14A) Fri 3:50-6:40-9:50 Sat 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:50 Sun 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon 6:30-9:20 Tue 3:40-6:30-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:20

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Mon 630-9:10 104 3:45-630-9:10 Wed-1 nt 6:30-9:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Wandertust (STC) No Passes Fri 4-6:50-9:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:30 No Passes Mon 6:50-9:30 No Passes Tue 4-6:50-9:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1

The Woman in Black (14A) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:05 Sat 7:30-10:05 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:20-10 Mon 10 Tue 4:30-7:20-10 Wed-Thu 7:20-10

SilverCity London 1680 Richmond St, 519-673-4125

Act of Valor (14A) Fri-Sat 2:15-4:55-7:45-10:30 Sun 1:05-3:55-7-9:40 Mon 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50 Tue 1:40-4:20-7:10-10:10 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:10-

Big Miracle (STC) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45-5-7:20 Mon-Thu 2-5-7:25

Chronicle (14A) Fri-Wed 9:55 Ernani (STC) Sat 12:55

Ernani (STC) Sat 12:55 Chost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D (14A) FriSun 220-5:157:35:10:05 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:257:10:9:40 Gone (14A) FriSat 12:50:3:10-5:357:55:10:40 Sun 12:50:3:10-6:50:9:35 Mon 12:55-3:50:705-

9:30 Tue 12:55-3:50-7:05-9:45 Wed 3:50-7:05-9:30

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Journey 2: The Mysterious Island —

An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:10-

The Land Before Time (PG) Sat 11 Leonardo Live (STC) Sun 12:55

National Theatre Live: The Comedy of Errors (STC) Thu 7

Project X (18A) Thu 10 Safe House (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:30-10:15 Mon 1:30-4:05-6:55-9:40 Tue 1:30-4:05-6:55-10:05 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:05-6:55-9:40

The Secret World of Arrietty (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:05-3:50-

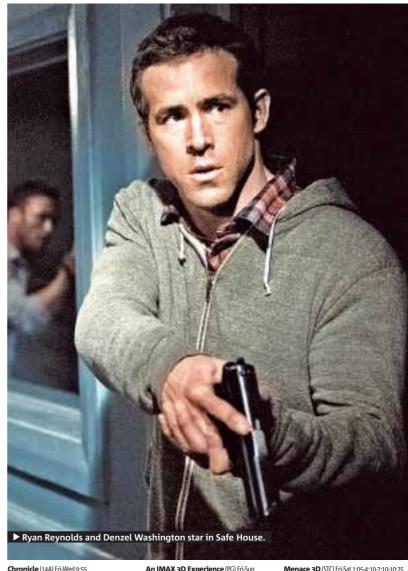
6:40-9:20 Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom

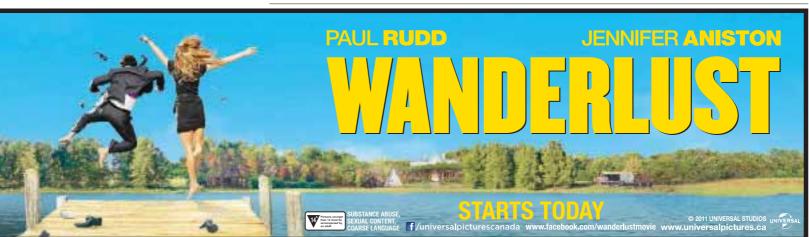
Menace 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:25 Sun 3:40-6:45-9:45 Mon-Wed 1-4-7-10 Thu 1-4-7 Sun 3:40-5:45-9:45 won-weet 1-47-70 inti 1-47-71 **This Means War** [14,h] Frisk 11:240-3:265-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sun 1:55-4:40-7:05-9:40 Mon 1:20-3:557-15-9:45 Thu 1:20-3:557-15-9:50 Wed 3:557-15-9:45 Thu 1:20-3:557-15-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

The Vow (PG) Fri-Sat 12:25-3-5:40-8:15-10:45 Sun 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:40-10 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:15-

The Woman in Black (14A) Fri 12:45-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:20 Sat 7:50-10:20 Sun 12:45-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:15 Mon-Wed 1:10-4:10-6:45-9:35 Thu 1:10-4:10-9:55







SOUND CHECK



ALAN CROSS SCENE @METRONEWS.CA

metr

The music industry has been lousy at creating new legendary acts over the last dozen years.

Outside of Jack White and Coldplay, try to name more rock acts that emerged from the 2000's that have turned into oldschool global rock 'n' roll superstars with long careers still ahead of them.

This has contributed to two things: Megatours by legacy artists (U2, Madonna, Rush, the Rolling Stones) and the explosion in reunions.

Ever since the Rolling Stones got back together for the Steel Wheels roadtrip in 1989, there's been an increasing amount of money to be made in band reunions.

Unlike newer acts, these productions can fill arenas and stadiums. And when all the receipts are counted, everybody makes a LOT of money.

No wonder promoters are willing to drop their pants to put together in-



sanely huge offers for reunion tours.

But this well is starting to run dry as age takes its toll on the older and most profitable legacy acts. Black Sabbath (collective age: 252) had to cancel its 2012 reunion tour over Tony Iommi's health issues, leaving a potential gross of \$170 million on the table.

This means there's more pressure for younger defunct acts to get it together again. Soundgar-Jane's Addiction, den, Stone Roses and the Happy Mondays caved. The Van

Halen brothers finally agreed to tolerate David Lee Roth for a little while.

How much money would someone be willing to pay The Smiths for them to get back together? Or better yet, how much money is there in a re-union of Appetite for Destruction-era Guns 'N Roses? If the Police grossed \$350 million, what are the Gunners worth? \$500 million? More?

Bottom line: I can see a GnR reunion in the near future. If not in 2012, then in 2013. There's just too much money on the line.



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Producing 'dope' new sounds



New film pushes Mark Ronson, DJ Premier outside of their comfort zones



It's not easy to throw Mark Ronson for a loop. Having produced such varied acts as Amy Winehouse, Duran Duran and Nas, he was eager to get involved in a fish-out-of-water musical experience like Re:Generation, the new film which pairs producers with unlikely musicians.

"I came from being a hip-hop DJ in New York, starting off in the '90s and that's what you did, you brought genres together," says Ronson. "That has always appealed to me."

For his part, Ronson brings one of his favourite backing bands, the Dap-Kings, to New Orleans to create a jazz song with Erykah Badu, Trombone Shorty, Mos Def and drummer Joseph (Zigaboo) Modeliste.

were all pretty "We much just going into it with Zigaboo as a complete hero of all of ours," says Ronson. "The way he plays drums and his drum breaks from the early Meters stuff are pretty much the DNA of hip-hop and funk, and we were all excited beyond belief to play with him. And he still plays and sounds like he did on those records that we grew up listening to!"

Elsewhere in the film, DJ Premier (Preem) visits Boston to work with the Berklee Symphony Orchestra, Skrillex works with the surviving members of The Doors in Los Angeles, The Crystal Method go to Detroit to work with Martha Reeves of the Van-

dellas and the Funk Brothers, while Pretty Lights struggles to create something country with LeAnn Rimes and Dr. Ralph Stanley

"I saw it in the trailer that there's a little tension and some serious culture and generational gaps going on, and I'm a little bit concerned that our thing is going to seem a bit boring," says Ronson, whose composition really does seem to come together quite organically. He says a key to the kinship was hanging out.

"We all just learned a lot and had a great time down in New Orleans," he says. "We went to this kind of alternative scene bar where like 80 per cent of the dudes had full face tattoos and they were playing this music called bounce,

and we just absorbed all of New Orleans, not just its traditional culture."

Premier premieres

DJ Premier may have had the assignment that was least similar to what he regularly does. The hiphop producer, known for his work with rappers like Snoop Dogg and Kanye West, had to create a piece of classical music.

"I really enjoyed having the chance to learn something new," says Premier. Granted access to classical greats, Preem sampled various composers to piece his ideas together. Then he collaborated with Berklee professor Stephen Webber, who transcribed the samples into written music.

"Working with everyone on this was just dope," says Premier.



Bobby Brown plans Whitney tell-all book

• Friends furious at his attempts to cash in on her death, ditching funeral

Bobby Brown is reportedly looking to write a tell-all memoir about his time with Whitney Houston but it's not the first time he's had the idea, according to the Huffington Post.

Back in 2008, the interest in a book on Whitney Houston wasn't that great. Whitney had fallen off the radar back then," a source

"But now, following her tragic death, the market has changed. Now is the time for a book that details an honest look into the life of Whitney."

Friends of the late singer aren't surprised by Brown's supposed interest.

"This is a man who left his ex-wife's funeral because he didn't like his seats and went to a paying



"He didn't get on stage

gig that night," one pal that night because he needed to sing his greatest hits or because Whitney



would have wanted him to entertain his fans, he did it to get a paycheck - the same reason he now wants to write a tell-all book.

Talking points

Witherspoon wants to add to her family

ANOTHER FUTURE BREAD **WINNER** Reese

Witherspoon is up for the idea of having a baby with new husband Iim Toth, according to Hollyscoop.

"I'd love that," the Oscar-winner says. "I feel really good and I'm at a really good place in my life."

Witherspoon already has two children — 12year-old Ava and 8-yearold Deacon — with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe, and she admits another kid would mean more people to embarrass around the house.

"The other day I was dancing around the house when they came in and literally stared at me like, 'Oh my God, that's so embarrassing," she says of her children.

"But I didn't stop. You can't stop dancing.

Celebrity tweets



sidering changing

my Twitter avatar. This decision is momentous. Feel like I should focus group it."



was worth every second welcome back Dave Roth. Rock has a new sherriff."

"There's four kids at this playaround named Cody. Buffalo Bill would be so proud."



news! Hosting Oscars counts five hours toward my community

Moore to remain in rehab

It doesn't look like Demi Moore's stay at a Utah treatment facility will come to an end anytime soon

"Demi is really doing well in rehab. She was about to hit rock bottom but now things are looking up for her," a source tells Radar Online.

"Demi has been doing so well in treatment but

"She was about to hit rock bottom but now things are looking up." source

the people around her aren't expecting she'll get out yet. She has a lot of work to do still to be and stay healthy."







RIDGETOWN

CHANGING LIVES

The award for classiest Oscar snack goes to...

Many Academy Award parties offer themed dishes Try sophisticated Smoked Salmon Oscar Bites instead • If you want a theme, serve beverages inspired by best picture nominees

Toasting the nominees



The last time I was on stage, I had a non-speaking role in a Grade 8 Christmas play. So, I guess you could say that I'm closer to a date with supermodel Kate Upton than I am to ever winning an Oscar.

That said, I've been addicted to the Academy Awards show since I stayed up past my bedtime to watch The Godfather Part II beat The Towering Inferno for best picture in 1974 (I'm still shocked).

With acting out of the question, I'm celebrating what's proved to be a pretty good year for movies by coming up with a liquid match for the front runners vying for the top prize this Sunday.

The Artist

What the heck? A black and white silent film from France is this year's best bet for Best Picture? Its late '20s setting made me thirsty for an ice cold martini made with France's best know neutral spirit Grey Goose Vodka (\$44.99 -

stirred, of course. **The Descendants**

Alexander Payne directed the now wineclassic themed Sideways. Celebrate his latest masterpiece (and George Clooney's great performance)

\$49.99). Shaken, not

but merlot. Think a food friendly, Californian red like Robert Mondavi's 2008 Private Selection Pinot Noir (\$15.95 \$19.99). My money is on The Descendants to win.

The Help

This excellent ensemble piece is set in the southern USA during the when the days Rights movement was just getting go-American whisky is the tipple of choice in that part of the world so reach for a chilled shot of Maker's Mark Bourbon (\$35.95 - \$39.99). Scared of bourbon sans mix? Make

Midnight In Paris

the south's most famous

cocktail: The mint julep.

An American in Paris travels back in time to the City of Lights' heyday. Toast the return of Woody Allen with the old school, fruit-Georges Duboeuf's Brouilly (\$15.78 - \$22.49) from France's Beauregion. Baguette, optional.

Moneyball

Take Brad out to the ball game. Though Mr. Pitt's performance is champagne worthy, nothing goes better with this flick's sports theme then a cold brew. Crack open a can or two of Coors Light (15 x 355 ml.

\$22.32 - \$27.29). PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PROD-UCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL





The Academy Awards is a pretty elaborate affair. So why not make your party just as fancy with these Smoked Salmon Oscar Bites.

The lemon works well to balance the smoked salmon.

Look for the little cups in grocery store shelves around the deli or in the cracker aisle.

These are also just as delicious on kettle chips for a quick change.

Smoked Salmon Oscar Bites

Preparation:

MULTIPLE

Using electric hand mixer, beat cream cheese

until fluffy. Beat in horseradish, shallot, capers, garlic, lemon rind and juice until smooth.

Place croustade cups onto serving platter and pipe or dollop a small amount of the mixture

Ingredients:

shallot

STANDINGS

SPRING SEASON

• 1/2 cup (125 mL) light

cream cheese, softened

• 1 tbsp (15 mL) minced

• 2 tsp (10 mL) minced

• 1 small clove garlic,

23 18

16

10

22

41

12

40

10

• 1 tbsp (15 mL) horseradish

rind

MORE, VISIT

- 1 box (40 g) siljans crous-
- 1 pkg (85 g) sliced smoked salmon

minced

• 1 tsp (5 mL) grated lemon

Cut smoked salmon into

thin strips and place dec-

oratively on top of cream

cheese mixture. Sprinkle

with chives before serv-

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- 1 tbsp (15 mL) lemon juice
- tade cups
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped fresh chives





Star dining



Governors Ball che Wolfgang Puck has once again created a delicious array of dishes for the stars to dine on following the 84th Academy Awards.

This year, instead of a formal sitdown dinner, the chef will offer 50 dishes for a buffetstyle event.

Among the delicacies are lobster, pot pie, gold dusted chocolate Oscars and more.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Sports in brief



Ottawa Senators goalie Craig Anderson is out indefinitely with a hand injury.

The Senators say Anderson accidentally cut his right hand while preparing a meal Thursday.

He was treated in hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

The 30-year-old Anderson has appeared in 56 games this season, posting a 2.85 goals-against average and 29-19-6 record.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Darvish looks comfortable with Rangers

Yu Darvish pulled a blue long-sleeved Rangers workout shirt over his head and chatted up teammate Justin Miller as nearly everybody in the clubhouse eagerly watched.

Texas' prize off-season pickup looked plenty comfortable in his new surroundings on Day 1 for pitchers and catchers at Surprise Stadium, where dozens of Japanese reporters arrived early to record the right-hander's every move.

What's wrong with Caps?

Ovechkin injury just part of collapse • Meeting held to thwart 'mail-it-in' mentality

Alex Ovechkin is injured. A benched player is needling the coach. Players are talking about being outworked and not being mentally prepared.

The usually upbeat owner calls one performance "unacceptable" and all but declares the next game a must-win, only to watch it turn into another clunker. The coach's idea of a "solid game" these days in one in which the team falls behind after 10 minutes instead of the

usual three or four.

Oh, yeah, and the trade deadline is a few days away. Such is the state of the

Such is the state of the Washington Capitals, a team whose annual chase for a title is turning into a feeble attempt just to make the playoffs.

"We had huge expectations," forward Mike Knuble said Thursday. "And it hasn't played out the way we planned."

That's the exact sentiment the Capitals are usually uttering in April or May, "The last two games, we weren't ready to play. We weren't prepared mentally."

DEFENCEMAN KARL ALZNER

after they've crashed out of the playoffs after winning the Southeast Division. This year, they are sitting outside the post-season — in 10th place in the Eastern Conference — after a road trip in which they lost their final three games by a combined score of 12-3.

With such signs that perhaps not everybody has their heart in it anymore,

the players held their own meeting Thursday morning. It only lasted a couple of minutes, and, according to defenceman Karl Alzner, served to make sure that no one would be trying to "mail it in."

Ovechkin, who missed Wednesday's 5-2 loss at Ottawa with a lower-body injury, showed up early and skated laps by himself for about 10-15 minutes, but not at full speed. He didn't return for practice and did not speak to reporters. Coach Dale Hunter said the former two-time NHL MVP was day-to-day

was day-to-day.
Ovechkin or not, the
Capitals aren't going to win
much if they keep falling
behind

"Teams are taking advantage of our slow starts right now," Alzner said. "And we're too fragile to be able to bounce back."

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Contact Dave Warren at dwarren@mvcc.edu to set up a recruiting visit or check out www.mvcc.edu/athletics

Kings land Carter in trade

Ocolumbus gets Jack Johnson, first-round pick

Jeff Carter is on his way to the West Coast.

The L.A. Kings acquired the centre from the Columbus Blue Jackets on Thursday night for defenceman Jack Johnson and a conditional first-round pick.

The deal is pending both players passing a physical Friday.

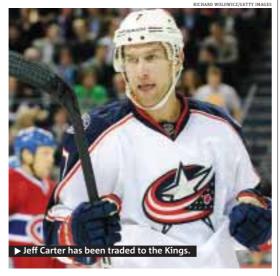
Carter, 27, missed 20 games this season due to a broken foot and a separated shoulder. He had three goals in the Blue Jackets' last game and has 15 goals and 10 assists in 39 games.

"I am obviously excited. I am familiar with the team and a lot of guys on the team," Carter said. "I looked at the Kings at the start of the year as being a club in a good position to win. I look forward to coming to L.A. and being a part of it all."

Columbus acquired Carter from the Philadelphia Flyers last summer for Jakub Voracek and first- and third-round picks in 2011.

He signed an 11-year, \$58-million US contract with Philadelphia in November 2010.

"Jeff is a proven goal scorer in our league. He brings goal-scoring abilities, speed and at his age he is entering the prime of his career," Kings president and general manager Dean Lombardi said in a state-



ment. "We also like his versatility as he can play both centre and wing."

The first-round pick Columbus acquired will be in either 2012 or 2013.

Carter, who has 368 points (196 goals, 172 assists) in 500 career games, joins a Kings squad that has scored an NHL-low 129 goals this season. L.A. entered play Thursday clinging to the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Carter has also appeared in 47 career playoff games, recording 21 points (13 goals, eight assists).

The move to L.A. re-

unites the London native with fellow centre Mike Richards. The pair helped the Flyers reach the Stanley Cup final in 2010.

Johnson, meanwhile, has eight goals and 16 assists in 61 games with the Kings in 2011-12. In 343 career games, the 25-year-old has 30 goals and 94 assists.

The Indianapolis native joins a Columbus team that sits last in the NHL and is clearly looking to rebuild.

Rumours continue to swirl that Columbus sniper Rick Nash could also be dealt before Monday's trade deadline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

As deadline draws near, Leafs keep on sliding

The Toronto Maple Leafs are giving Brian Burke plenty to think about ahead of the NHL trade deadline.

Patrick Marleau scored twice Thursday as the San Jose Sharks edged Toronto 2-1, sending the stumbling Leafs to their seventh loss in eight games.

Burke put the team on alert when he told a Toronto radio station Wednesday that he was in the market for a goaltender. Judging by the team's play of late, he probably won't stop there.

James Reimer earned the start in goal against the Sharks and did his part



with 24 saves. However, his record fell to 11-9-4 on the season.

Marleau was the only player to beat him with a pair of second-period goals that lifted the Sharks (32-20-7) to their first win in five games.

Jake Gardiner replied for the Maple Leafs (29-25-7), who fell to 1-6-1 since Feb. 7. The teams took some time to feel their way into the game, producing a tepid opening 20 minutes. But Marleau put the Sharks ahead early in the second period by quickly firing a Joe Thornton pass over Reimer's shoulder just 32 seconds in.

Burke will only get one more opportunity to watch his team before the trade deadline passes on Monday afternoon. The Leafs face Washington on Saturday night — and will likely have fallen outside of the top eight in the Eastern Conference when the puck drops on that one.

THE CANADIAN PRESS







Positive tests for performance-enhancing drugs have been relatively rare under the MLB testing program, with just two others in 2011: Tampa Bay outfielder Manny Ramirez and Colorado Rockies catcher Eliezer Alfonzo.

Sample slip-up?

Ryan Braun's urine sample was collected Saturday, Oct. 1, the day the Brewers opened the NL playoffs.

- The collector didn't send the sample to the laboratory until Monday, thinking it would be more secure at home than at a FedEx office during the weekend.
- MLB's drug agreement
- states: "Absent unusual circumstances, the specimens should be sent by FedEx to the laboratory on the same day they are collected."
- "To have this sort of technicality of all technicalities let a player off ... it's just a sad day for all the clean players and those that abide by the rules within professional baseball," Travis Tygart, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, said.



Braun safe from PED suspension

NL MVP relieved after 50-game ban overturned ◆ MLB management 'vehemently disagrees' with decision

Ryan Braun's 50-game suspension was overturned Thursday by arbitrator Shyam Das, the first time a baseball player has successfully challenged a drug-related penalty in a grievance.

The decision was announced Thursday by the Major League Baseball Players Association, a day before the 28-year-old outfielder was due to report to spring training with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Braun's urine tested positive in October for elevated testosterone. ESPN revealed the positive test in December.

Braun has insisted that he did not violate baseball's drug agreement.

"I am very pleased and relieved by today's deci"I have been an open book, willing to share details from every aspect of my life as part of this investigation, because I have nothing to hide."

sion," he said in a statement. "It is the first step in restoring my good name and reputation. We were able to get through this because I am innocent and the truth is on our side."

MLB executive vice-president Rob Manfred said management "vehemently disagrees" with Das' decision.

Travis Tygart, chief exec-

utive officer of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, called the decision "a real gut-kick to clean athletes."

During the hearing, Braun's side challenged the chain of custody from the time the urine sample was collected by Comprehensive Drug Testing Inc. to when it was sent, nearly 48 hours later, to a World Anti-Doping Agency-certified laboratory in Montreal, two people familiar with the case said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the hearing was supposed to be confidential.

Das, baseball's independent arbitrator since 2000, informed the sides of his decision and has 30 days to provide a written opinion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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Crossword

Across

- 1 Treaties
- 6 Morsel
- 9 Curved flight path
- 12 "I don't give —!"
- 13 Rhyming tribute
- 14 Feathery neckwear
- 15 Comic Sykes
- 16 Alluring attraction
- 18 Roughhousing lass
- 20 Eye layer
- 21 Swelled head
- 23 Emcee Sajak 24 Take forcibly
- 25 It may be a proper
- subject
- 27 Oregon's capital
- 29 Avenue
- 31 Mistreated
- 35 Destroy
- 37 Tear asunder 38 "M*A*S*H" clerk
- 41 That girl
- 43 Still
- 44 Basin accessory
- 45 Louvre or Prado 47 Free-runners'
- sport
- 49 Foreheads
- 52 Upper limb
- 53 Foreign policy grp.
- 54 Standard
- 55 Verily
- 56 Blond shade
- 57 Late

Down

- 1 Dog's foot
- 4 Commotion
- 5 Postage
- 6 Colombia's capital

- 8 Afternoon affair

2 "Caught va!"

- 3 Shape
 - 32 "Little Shop of Hor-
- 7 Without acting 34 Banned pesticide

- 9 Overhead 10 Libertines 40 Skin (Suff.)
- 11 200 milligrams 17 Grumbling sound
- 19 Sew loosely 21 Type squares
- 22 Obtained
- 24 "Charlotte's —"
- 26 New Jersey airport city
- 28 Great quintet?
- 30 Bobble
- rors" role
- 33 Away from WSW
- 36 House of worship

38 Settle a loan 39 Cognizant

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- 42 Show to be false
- 45 Tousle, as hair
- 46 Major 48 "Three Men
- Horse"
- 51 Crafty

50 Bankroll

Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

11

14

33

50 51

43

17

20

	5		9		4		2	
7			6		1			4
	8			5			9	
		2				1		
4	7						3	2
		8				9		
	4			3			1	
5			2		9			8
	9		5		7		6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and

Yesterday's answer	
--------------------	--

1	8	6	7	4	5	9	2	3
7	4	3	7 6	9	2	5	1	8
9	5	2	3	8	1	4	7	6
2	3	9	8	1	4	7	6	5
4	7	5	9	6	3	2	8	1
6	1	8	5	2	7	3	4	9
8	9	7	2	5	6	1	3	4
3	6	4	1	7	9	8	5	2
5	2	1	4	3	8	6	9	7

Send a

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Joombazz, Hi babe, I know we've been having our disagreements and misunderstandings more than ever now but even with everything going on know that my love never stops for you but continues to grow. Everything we go through only makes us stronger and closer. I love you with all my heart baby boo. Take care and smile!:) JABOOMZZ

strong women Friends are gems. Family are forever hugs and kisses. Little ones need us even if they are not our own. Big high five to all the hardworking people out there trying to make a better world they live in. Its another beautiful day. Smile! SAME CLUB

you, i'd say everyrthing that i know just to see if it would show. but this time i just dont know. i wonder why your always in a good mood though. BABES



Today's horoscope

TAries March 21-April 20

You have so many good things going for you that you don't need to waste time on schemes that are unlikely to ever come true.

Taurus April 21-May 21

Life is too short to waste time arguing over trivial things, so ignore people who try to involve you in fights that don't matter.

If Gemini May 22-June 21

Your mind is forever on the move and at least one of your ideas is

she is. Make the first move.

touched by aenius. Gancer June 22-July 22 Someone needs your help but is afraid to ask. You know who he or

Ω Leo July 23-Aug.23

The answers you get today may not be the answers you want but they are the answers you need to hear. M Virgo Aug. 24 Sept. 22

You are in a hole and no amount of wishful thinking is going to get you out of it. It is time to get practical. **≃ Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23

If you are going to make the most of your talents, you need to stretch yourself — not just physically but mentally, too

M Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

The planets indicate you need help today but you may be reluctant to ask because you don't like to be in anyone's debt. You won't be.

panded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca **₹ Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec.

21 Think carefully before making major changes over the next 24 hours. You should be aiming for

evolution, not revolution.

V Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You need to be careful when dealing with both financial matters and affairs of the heart.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Some people are being unnaturally nice to you, making you wonder what they are up to. There is nothing they can do to hurt you.

)-(Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

There's a danger you'll end up partying with the wrong sort of crowd, but so what? SALLY BROMPTON





You write it!

WIN! Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca the winning caption will be published in Tuesday's



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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

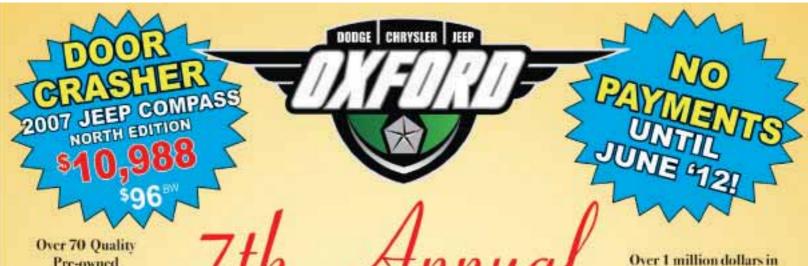
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1. Word 'bar' removed from awning 2. Red dot added to boy's ball cap 3. Red dot on window removed 4. ''' removed from building number 5. 'O' filled in in the word Apolo 6. Blue sign removed from wall 7. Driver's side reflector removed from the 2012 Chevrolet Cruze 8. Vent added on red wall 9. Sewer on curb in front of car removed from the 2012 Chevrolet from door handle





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- · Full Stow-N-Go
- · Quad seating
- · Rear heat & air
- Keyless
- · Dark Tint



2011 DODGE AVENGER SXT

- Sunroof
- Fog lights
- Heated seats
- · Alloy wheels
- · Rear spoiler



2010 DODGE AVENGER

2010 DODGE CALIBER















ONLY SYLES DOWN @ SIGN & DRIVE AWAY

Energies sout of burnaring on \$10,000 level of excellent at \$1,750. On expressed sealth, still payments plus large and surveying \$0.00 incident based on the results. Surveying sealth and resolves the sealth outside. SURVEYING Design Averages 937 - 817,000 p. (2010) p. 1. Surveying sealth of the sealth outside Control Control Sealth Sealth, \$17,753 (2010) Based Control Sealth Se



Oxford Exclusive No Charge 3-year basic maintenance with the purchase of any vehicle.

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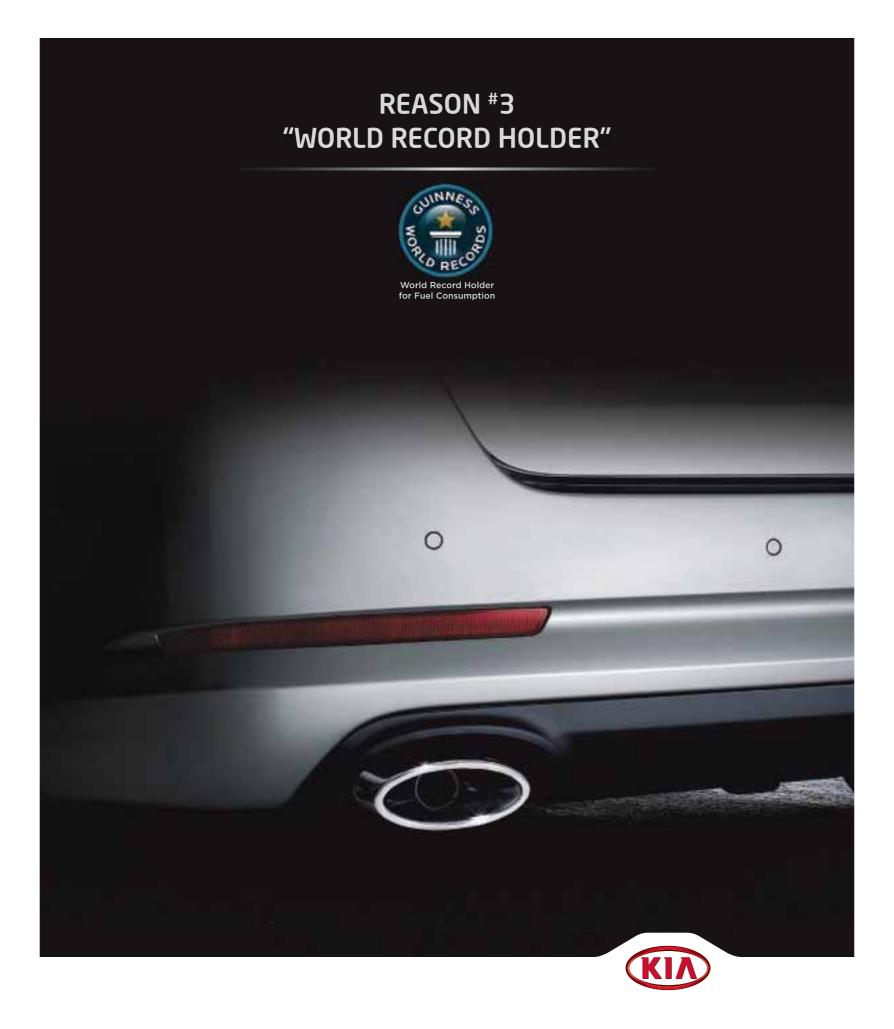


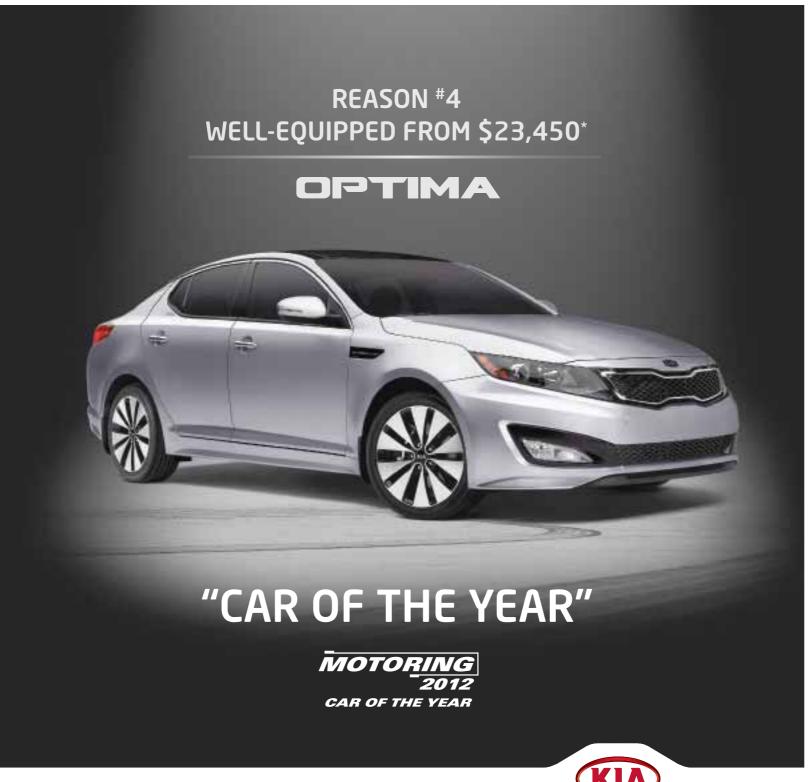














The 2012 Kia Optima. With an available Hybrid or 2.4-litre 200 HP GDI engine, you don't just get class-leading horsepower. Nor do you just get world-class design with a finely appointed interior, a slew of standard features, and 5-star safety. You also get the Car of the Year.















